

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-4, drawn to methods of fixing low-molecular weight compounds using photoreactive complexes to a solid-phase support;

Group II, claims 5-7, drawn to methods of fixing low-molecular weight compounds to a microarray;

Group III, claims 9-12, drawn to methods of fixing low-molecular weight compounds to beads;

Group IV, claims 13 and 14, drawn to methods of fixing low-molecular weight compounds that are small organic molecules having primarily carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, or sulfur as the main constituent atom to a solid support.

Applicants traverse this rejection and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner asserts that the special technical feature of the invention of linking the low-molecular weight compound to a photoreactive compound on a solid support is known and, therefore, not a contribution over what is known. In support of this assertion, the Examiner cites to MacBeath et al. JACS (1999), Vol. 21, 7967-7968. However, the Examiner has misinterpreted the teachings of MacBeath et al. MacBeath et al. discloses a conventional fixing method as discussed on page

1, lines 15-20 of the specification. With such a conventional fixing method, all of the low molecular weight compound is required to have a functional group, such as a hydroxyl or amino group. In MacBeath et al., the low-molecular weight compounds are fixed by the functional group that they have. McBeath et al. does not disclose or suggest any photoreactive compound. Thus, the Examiner's position is erroneous and all of the embodiments of claims 1-14 share a common technical feature that renders the claims novel and unobvious over the prior art. Rejoinder of Groups I-IV is respectfully requested.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-4.

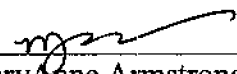
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, Registration No 40,069 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
MaryAnne Armstrong, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 40,069
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant